MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 DECEMBER 1982

Lebanon

Lebanese-Israeli Talks -- Although Lebanon wants the negotiations with Israel to start on 24 December at Khaladah, Israel proposes that they start at the same venue on 27 December, Jerusalem radio reported. Earlier, Beirut radio said the talks might begin before the weekend while various Lebanese sources cited by AFP announced conflicting dates for the start of negotiations. AFP also reported that two Lebanese newspapers said the start of the talks might be accompanied by a partial withdrawal of Israeli and Syrian troops. Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin sent a message to U.S. President Ronald Reagan expressing hope that the talks will begin soon, and Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon told journalists that the negotiations will be direct, "without mediators," although the Americans have been invited to "participate," according to Jerusalem radio and ITIM. In another development, Radio Monte Carlo reported that Saudi Arabia has sent a strongly-worded message to the White House requesting the U.S. Administration to pressure Israel to withdraw its forces from Lebanon before the new year.

Israeli Reaction to Mine -- Israel regards the incident in which two IDF officers were killed by a mine in the Al-Biqa' as "very serious and it cannot be assumed that Israel will allow such acts to continue without reacting to them," Defense Minister Sharon announced in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio. He confirmed that Israel holds the PLO responsible.

Christians Ambushed -- Five Christian militiamen of the Lebanese Forces were killed when Progressive Socialist Party members ambushed their vehicle at Ash-Shuwayfat, according to a Lebanese Forces source cited by AFP. Following the attack, Christian and leftist militia traded artillery fire in the area just south of Beirut, the source added.

Israel

Relations With Egypt -- There is no room for compromise in the Tabah dispute and Israel would never have developed Tabah beach if it had the slightest doubt that the area belongs to Eretz Yisra'el, Israeli Defense Minister Sharon said in an interview with Jerusalem radio at Tabah. Pointing out that Tabah is one of 15 border demarcation disputes between Israel and Egypt, Sharon said Israeli-Egyptian relations must be clarified, hopefully through personal high-level contacts.

Reacting to Sharon's statement on Tabah, an Egyptian Foreign Ministry source declared that Tabah is Egyptian, will remain so and will return to Egypt, Cairo radio reported. Branding Sharon's statement a "new escalation" of the Tabah situation, he stressed that Egypt will not concede "one iota of sand in Tabah." After studying the text of Sharon's statement, Egypt will take the necessary diplomatic steps, he added.

Sydney Bombings -- Bombs exploded near the Israeli Consulate and a Jewish club in Sydney, Australia, Jerusalem radio reported. The director of the PLO's Information Office in Australia denied that his organization was responsible and accused Mosad of the deed, the radio noted.

Jordan

Following official talks held in Washington on 21 December, both King Husayn and President Reagan stressed their commitment to establishing a durable peace in the Middle East, Amman radio reported. King Husayn praised U.S.-Jordanian relations and stated that the talks had provided the opportunity to discuss "many problems of mutual

interest and the challenges that lie ahead," the radio added. According to Jerusalem radio, a senior official in Washington expressed confidence that Jordan would join the Middle East peace process within 10 weeks.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Riyadh Meetings -- Jordan's King Husayn, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will attend a reconciliation summit in Riyadh "soon" under the auspices of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, according to the Jidda daily 'UKAZ. The Saudi monarch will sponsor another summit to be held in Riyadh between Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and Morocco's King Hassan II in order to put the "final touches" on a reconciliation agreement concerning the Sahara dispute, the paper claimed.

Fes Committee -- The leaders of the seven countries of the Fes summit committee will reportedly meet in Rabat next week to assess the results of the committee's recent activities, WAKH reported citing the Riyadh daily AR-RIYAD.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi Defense Minister Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah stated that Iran is currently massing troops opposite the Maysan Governorate area in preparation to cross the Iraqi border, INA reported.

Iran

"We should no longer say we are in a revolutionary situtation," Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni declared in a speech to officials broadcast by Tehran radio. Stressing that now is the time for security and for serving society and Islam, Khomeyni affirmed that Iranians abroad should no longer be afraid to return to their country and that no one should be frightened that his assets will be expropriated: "We do not believe in confiscating people's wealth," he asserted. People should feel confident of their wealth and engage in trade, he said, and they should likewise feel secure in their homes. He reiterated that government authorities should not violate people's rights by invading their homes or spying on them. On the other hand, Khomeyni praised the work of security forces in combating dissidents and said people who oppose Islam and establish centers of "debauchery" or gambling will be punished.

Egypt

The PRC and Egyptian delegations met at Al-Qubbah Palace in Cairo to discuss bilateral issues and issues of common concern, including Third World topics and Middle East peace efforts, MENA reported.

Algeria

Some 30 members of a criminal organization who stole explosives and attacked gendarmerie personnel in southern Algiers have been arrested and face trial, Algiers radio reported. While asserting that the organization's objectives are unknown, the radio said that the criminals "cling to Islam" and that those still at large "escape investigation using religious sentiments."

Afghanistan

The director general of the DRA Defense Ministry defected to Pakistan, Karachi radio reported. The former DRA official asserted that 99.9 percent of Afghan people support the mujahidin, the radio added.

DAILY REPORT

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DOST HOME FROM OPENING CONSULATE IN TASHKENT

LD230740 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0417 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 22, BAKHTAR -- Shah Mohammad Dost, minister of foreign affairs of the DRA, returned home from the Soviet Union today.

He had gone to Tashkent at the head of a delegation to open the DRA General Consulate in the capital of Soviet Uzbekistan.

OFFICIAL CRITICIZES PAKISTAN'S ROLE IN WAR

LD221048 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 21, BAKHTAR -- "Undeclared war is a form of invasion in which regular groups and armed mercenaries are despatched by a state or in its name in order to carry out armed operations against another state." This was stated by Mohammed Salim Majas, deputy minister of justice, in an interview with [word indistinct] correspondent.

He added that the war which is being waged by [word indistinct] imperialist circles headed by U.S. imperialism in collusion with the reactionary circles of the region especially the militarists of Pakistan against the people of Afghanistan is an undeclared war in accordance with the definition of the U.N. organisation. This undeclared war has caused thousands of catastrophes and affected thousands of victims.

Today the people of the world are witnessing the ruthless annihilation, the arousing of schools, mosques, religious places, the destruction of hospitals, bridges and roads in Afghanistan perpetrated by the mercenary bandits exported from across the country especially from Pakistan.

As is shown by the vivid facts and reliable documents, these bands are receiving military training and are being armed in over 80 military camps in Pakistan. The imperialist and reactionary circles have embarked upon large-scale misleading propaganda and the launching of counter-revolutionary activities against the DRA. The Pakistani experts and the trainers of imperialist countries headed by USA and Chinese hegemonists are trying hard in Pakistan to teach and impart the techniques of terrorism and destruction to the hired bands of Afghan counter-revolution and then to arm and send them to the soil of Afghanistan for subversive actions.

Responding to another question, the deputy minister of Justice Ministry said that today's Pakistan has changed to a centre of instigations against the revolution of Afghanistan. We were and are desirous of the peaceful solution of the situation around Afghanistan with the neighboring countries, and want to see that the Governments of Pakistan and Iran take steps regarding the peaceful solution in accord with reasonable and principled proposals set out by the DRA in this connection. But it should be said with regret that today the military regime of Pakistan has become a tool at the hand of U.S. imperialism and therefore the imperialism in collusion with the Chinese hegemonism see their interests in the continuation of war and fratricide in Afghanistan. The militarists of Pakistan were and are incapable of becoming prepared on their own for discussion for the peaceful solution of the issues around Afghanistan.

ARMY DEFECTOR COMMENTS ON ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

GF221242 Lahore JANG in Urdu 11 Dec 82 p 8

[Text] London, 10 Dec (AAP) -- A very important officer of the Afghan Army, Colonel Abdul Manan, has taken refuge in Pakistan. Col Abdul Manan was serving as head of the military engineering department of the Afghan Army and has defected to Pakistan along with his family. He arrived in Pakistan via the Waziristan tribal areas. Upon his arrival in Islamabad, Col Abdul Manan disclosed that before the communist takeover there were 1,300 workers in his department. They now number only 200. He said he was head of his department in name only. The real power was in the hands of a Soviet adviser named Colonel (Leonid Vasileyvich). Col Abdul Manan said that due to the resistance movement, the Afghan military engineering department was paralyzed.

ADDITION TO DOST COMMENTS ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The following addition should be made to the item entitled "Dost Comments on Relations With Neighbors" published in the 20 December South Asia DAILY REPORT on page C 2:

Page C 4, first paragraph, line six should read: ...spare any efforts.

Esteemed Comrade Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, said in his speech on 24 July 1982 to the Ninth PDPA Central Committee Plenum: We are consistently and with determination continuing our efforts to find a political solution to the situation concerning Afghanistan and to normalize relations with neighboring countries. On several occasions we have put forward constructive and useful proposals which consider our country's interests and those of the others. We offered useful proposals at the last talks between the DRA and Pakistani foreign ministers in Geneva through the representative of the UN secretary general. These talks indicated that there are possibilities for reaching agreements acceptable to both sides and in general for an all-round political solution to the problem. Only good will and mutual understanding are needed to solve the present disagreements. As far as the DRA is concerned, we are prepared to do our part to improve the situation in the region and to normalize relations with Iran and Pakistan.

PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN SECRETARY ARRIVES FOR TALKS

BK221613 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] A Pakistani delegation headed by Foreign Secretary Niaz Naik arrived in New Delhi this evening for talks with Indian officials tomorrow and the day after. Officials of the two countries are meeting at the direction of the heads of the two governments who met in New Delhi last November.

Their first task will be to finalize the statutes of the Indo-Pakistan joint commission and the modalities of its functioning. An agreement in this regard is expected to be initialed during the meeting. The officials will take up simultaneously Pakistan's proposal for a nonaggression pact and India's proposal for a treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation.

The two sides will also exchange on a reciprocal basis lists of each other's nationals held in jails by them. An official spokesman said that the categories of prisoners will have to be determined mutually. The lists will cover personnel of all categories.

Optimism Voiced Over Talks

BK231019 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] The foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan have expressed optimism over a positive outcome of their talks beginning in New Delhi today. They said that a new spirit has been generated by the recent meeting between Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi and President Ziaul Haq. These views were expressed last night at a dinner hosted in honor of visiting Pakistan Foreign Secretary Niaz Naik and his delegation.

Speaking on the occasion, Foreign Secretary M.K. Rasgotra said the two sides have clear direction and well defined objectives for deliberations which would last 2 days. Niaz Naik agreed with Rasgotra that they will get down to the talks with a new impetus given to Indo-Pakistan relations by their two leaders. He hoped that once the joint commission is established consultations would be taken up at the higher level for building a new atmosphere between the two nations.

DEFENSE MINISTER ON TALKS WITH AKALIS

BK231030 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Defense Minister Venkataraman has said that the representatives of the union Cabinet subcommittee on Punjab affairs are ready to go to Chandigarh for talks if the Akali leaders are willing to come to the negotiating table. He told newsmen in Bhatinda last evening that the center is keen on finding a solution to the Punjab problem which is acceptable to all.

Referring to the meeting of Sikh ex-servicemen called by Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, Venkataraman said the call will not have any response and it may not solve the problem. He said the armed forces are the most disciplined and homogenous and are above caste, creed, and religion.

Several leaders have condemned the convention of Sikh ex-servicemen called by Sant Harchand Singh Longowal for today. Hangsraj Sharma has described the move as politically motivated. Haryana Pradesh [state] Congress-I General Secretary Sumer Chand Bhatt has said the meeting is fraught with dangerous consequences and should be called off. Punjab Deputy Minister for Panchayat and Development Ujagar Singh has called upon the Akali leaders to come to the negotiating table.

Meanwhile, President of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee Gurcharan Singh Tohra has claimed that the agitation is only for the declaration of Amritsar as a holy city.

NUSRAT BHUTTO ON ZIA'S FOREIGN, DOMESTIC POLICIES

BK221330 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 15 Dec 82 pp 1, 7

[Article by B.K. Tiwari of the Express News Service]

[Text] Paris, Dec 14 -- Begum Nusrat Bhutto on Monday ridiculed Gen Ziaul Haq for trying to sign a no-war pact with India.

No-war pact for what? she asked in an interview with this reporter. All this tamasha [show] was Mr Zia's gimmick in a bid to stay in power, she said. She explained that what was more important was to have a friendship treaty which would open up trade and economic co-operation, and liberalise visa exchanges between India and Pakistan. The Simla agreement had already paved the way in this direction, she said.

About the Afghanistan issue, Mrs Bhutto said any solution to the problem would have to be political and this could come about only if Mr Zia agreed to have direct negotiations with Mr Babrak Karmal, the Afghan president.

It was ridiculous on Mr Zia's part to say that he would not have a dialogue with Mr Karmal because he (Mr Karmal) was not an elected representative of the Afghan people.

"Yes," she added, "Mr Karmal is not an elected representative of his people. But ask Zia. Is he the representative of the people of Pakistan?"

This was Mrs Bhutto's first interview to an Indian journalist since she left Pakistan for Munich for treatment of suspected lung cancer.

Before she sat down in her Plaza Athene Hotel room for the interview, Mrs Bhutto expressed her grateful thanks to Mrs Gandhi for the "very bold step" she took in openly asking Mr Zia to "allow me (to go out abroad) for my treatment on humanitarian grounds." She said she had already written her a letter of thanks.

Mrs Bhutto said she would be in this part of the world at least for five months at the end of which her German doctors would examine her to find out whether the medicines they had given her were proving effective. If they asked her to stay back for a few more months she would, for if she returned to Pakistan she might never be allowed to return here. "But I hope my doctors will say that I can go back."

She disclosed that she might go to the U.S. not as a government guest, but to see her nephew, who is working there as a professor. She has already got a U.S. visa.

The begum answered my questions on several subjects -- the structure of the Movement for Restoration of Democracy, the 1973 Constitution which has now been virtually suspended by Mr Zia the role of the army if the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) [was] voted back to power, Bhutto's position on perfecting an atom bomb, the prospects of elections in her country and the future of Indo-Pakistan relations.

Mrs Bhutto, who is PPP chief, expressed her doubts whether Mr Zia would ever hold elections and if he did whether they would be fair. However, she added, if he was forced to hold elections, because of national or international pulls and pressures, her party would not join hands with any political group or groups. It would contest on its own platform. If any political party wished to join her organisation it would be for the Central Executive Committee of the PPP to take a decision.

The Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD), she said, was a loose alliance of various political parties to force Mr Zia to hold elections under the 1973 Constitution and to withdraw martial law.

The MRD "is not an election alliance", she said. Nor for that matter it would form a united front. It was a blend of all those who believed in democracy and wanted to express views in this respect from one platform.

If the elections "are held we will fight under own banner.... All other parties will fight separately on their own platforms with their manifestoes."

The begum insisted that the elections must be held under the 1973 Constitution. According to the Constitution, anyone violating it, even in part, could be charged with treason, which would mean execution.

Asked how her party, if it was elected to power, would treat the violaters (of the Constitution), she said the law would take its course.

"But has not Mr Zia virtually violated it?" I asked.

She replied angrily, "Zia does not dare say that the 1973 Constitution does not exist.... He says it does exist but that it has been held in abeyance," even though the opposition parties were saying that for all practical purposes there was nothing left of the Constitution.

The fact was, she clarified, it had been kept aside for certain period because of what the regime says "necessity in the land".

I reminded the begum about Mr Zia's statement in which he reportedly said that in any future running of the country the army would have to have a sizable say.

She said, "But he has not made it clear what exactly he wants. One has to understand what he means by the army's role.... The army already has a role under the Constitution. It has been trained to play a role in the country...."

When I reminded her about Bhutto's remarks to me in an interview that the army should go to the barracks, she agreed and repeated, "Yes, the army should to to the barracks."

The PPP leader hastened to add that if Mr Zia wanted the army to play a yet unspecified special role, "it will have to be engraved in the Constitution by three-fourths of the majority of an elected parliament; every comma and every fullstop, too."

The widow of the executed prime minister refused to admit that Punjab had failed to protect Bhutto. "I think Punjab played a very big role in trying to save the life of Mr Bhutto.... Seven persons burnt themselves in Punjab and two others got themselves crippled in the process.

"We have our strength in Punjab. You cannot bracket the people of Punjab with the army or the Punjabis working in the army. These are two different things. The Punjabis are the backbone of the PPP. It is the strength of our party."

On one point Mrs Bhutto was very diplomatic -- the atom bomb which Bhutto, by all accounts, wanted to manufacture, and which Mr Zia also wants to perfect.

In answer to my blunt question on this subject, she wavered, then said, "I do not know whether Pakistan was making a A-bomb or is making a bomb. I really do not know because such things are top secret...and I was not in the government...."

Then, like Mr Zia, she said that Pakistan had a right to have nuclear science know-how to apply it for peaceful purposes -- to use it for generating electricity, expanding the industrial sector and for agricultural production.

Mrs Bhutto's two sons are alleged to have ordered the hijacking of a PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] plane to Kabul. Asked how she took her sons' activities, she explained: "It is not a matter of supporting or condemning them. As chairman of the PPP I believe we should struggle in a peaceful manner, in a democratic manner. But Zia would not allow the PPP or other parties to voice their views in a democratic way. Some young people thought that there is no other way except to get things done this way (meaning terrorist way)".

She tried to explain that that was so because "Mr Zia flogs and dismembers those who oppose him by torturing them". So, they "chose a different way to bring back democracy".

The begum refused to disclose (or did not know) where her sons were (they are in Damascus, reports say). She simply said that they were not in her party and had become pro-Moscow.

She would also not say whether Bhutto's pro-China policy had failed. She simply said that if and when her party formed government, "our policy will be to have normal relations with all our neighbours and with all countries."

Mrs Bhutto warned that if Mr Zia refused to hold elections, Pakistan might break up. In Sind a movement was already on for Sind desh [land] and Baluchistan was crying for Greater Baluchistan. The same thing was happening in the North-Western Frontier Province.

"So, to have stability in the country, democracy is necessary and imperative. If there is no constitution, then the smaller provinces would want greater autonomy."

At present, there was no democracy, no courts in the country; despite Mr Zia's claims, she said. "If, as Zia says, there is stability, let him withdraw martial law. Why is he, after five and a half years, still running the country under martial law?"

Mrs Bhutto conveyed the following message to the Indians through THE INDIAN EXPRESS:

"Indians, I say, you are very lucky to have democracy in your country, to have parliamentary democracy. Democracy is the best way any way for any country."

The begum, apparently, looks hale and hearty. But during her interview she often coughed and held her chest, indicating that she was having pain.

Her sister, Mrs Hariri, who was seated by her side, advised her to go slow. But she continued to talk, giving an indication how strongly she felt about the Zia regime and how she was determined to fight for the restoration of democracy in her country.

KHOMEYNI SPEAKS OF CIVIL, PROPERTY RIGHTS

LD221532 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] This morning Interior Minister Nateq Nuri, accompanied by deputy interior ministers and governors general from all parts of the country were received by Iman Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In this meeting the interior minister first presented the imam with a report about the seminar [of the governors general] and the elections for the Council of Experts. Then, Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said in a speech:

[Announcer read] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. One of the issues to which we should pay attention and render thanks to the Almighty and the All-Blessed God is to see what the nation has done for us. If you search all ages and all the world you will not find a nation like the Iranian nation which has led the way in solving problems. The yardstick is always constituted by the nation and the masses. Before and after the revolution our nation was present on the scene in an amazing way. Since the people wanted the Council of Experts.more than 19 million people voted for it. The nation knows that no pressure was exerted and that there was not even one instance of a government official telling anyone to go and vote. This is the power of Islam which, on the other hand, keeps the people upon the scene while on the other hand, the armed forces including the Guards Corps, the army, the gendarmerie, the police, the mobilization [units], the tribes and all others have remained steadfast for more than 2 years despite all the hardships and pressures and are defending this country and offering martyrs. Concerning the safehouses in which a number of corrupt assailants throughout the country have been and are busy hatching plots, you see what effective steps are being taken by the police, the committees, the guards, the judicial officials and others. Only last night they announced they have uncovered 50 team houses together with a large number of these assailants. If one safehouse had been discovered during the former regime, you know the noise and clamour it would have made; but what about today? I regard it a great injustice that our dear children work like this day and night and only a few words are said about them on the radio and television, which then move on to other matters after only saying what happened, and not thanking our people who have cooperated with the officials or all those who have been involved. Today so many of our dear guards are killed in the course of discovering one safehouse or destroying one center of corruption. I thank them. This is an expression of gratitude for a bounty which has been bestowed upon us by God. In order to express our gratitude we should act instead of talk; action in accordance with Islamic principles, no more and no less.

As I have said before, to spy and search is contrary to Islam. On the other hand, engaging in flagrant debauchery and actions contrary to the shari'ah are also impermissible. Of course, the masses of the people never engage in an offensive action, but it is possible that a group of people may be found who wish to misuse [the people]. No, misuse should not be allowed. Islamic teachings should be carried out in all their dimensions; that is, there should be neither spying nor inquisition, nor any flagrant debauchery. We should not engage in oppression. We should not investigate what is going on in people's homes.

At the same time, no one is allowed to set up a center for debauchery or for gambling. In an Islamic government, such activities would be suppressed. We want God's teachings to be carried out; both from this side [the government] as well as from the other side [the people]. On the one hand, one should not mistreat the people and should not invade their homes. The people should feel secure in their homes. They should feel confident in their lives, in their professions, and trades. The Islamic government is dutybound to give people confidence in everything, in their wealth, in their profession, and their trade. The government is not allowed to violate their rights; and if someone violates [their rights], he will be punished. On the other hand, if someone violates [Islam], he too will be punished. If those people who are against Islam wish to flaunt their debauchery, they too will be punished. Briefly, we should consider all the circumstances and we should be humble toward the great Iranian people and we should serve them. One service is to say thank you to them and to pray for them. However, true gratitude toward the people would mean that we recompense them for the bounty they have bestowed upon us, that we are humble concerning their difficulties and try to solve them.

All of us know there is not the slightest sign of instability in our country. It is due to God's grace that we have achieved such stability despite all the problems. The people have been motivated to withstand all the difficulties. Today most of the powers are against us; nevertheless, through its unity our nation is confronting all of them. If the nation maintains its unity, it should feel confident that it will not be defeated. The people should support the government, and the government, the governors general and the governors should serve the people wherever they are. When we serve the nation, the nation will also support us. It is under these conditions that the foreigners present us with their ambitions [towards Iran] because the foreigners always try to destroy the situation from within and to destroy people's unity; to create divisions and then order their domestic agents to implement their vile plans. Therefore, the nation should maintain its unity. It is only due to this unity that we are not under any [foreign] banner.

We live only under the banner of Islam and no one is influencing us. We obey only [Islamic] teachings. So long as we have any strength left we will try to strengthen Islamic foundations and to follow Islam. It is only under these conditions that Almighty God will assist us. The main thing is that we serve; serving the nation is the same as serving Islam; serving the government is the same as serving Islam. Today, any service we render will be service to Islam. When we decide to serve Islam, Almighty God will not leave us alone and will not let us be faced with difficulties, because difficulties stem from individuals themselves and not from outside. So long as there is no decay from within the nation, the foreigners will not be able to achieve anything. Thank God, today we are self-confident and we should serve the people with this confidence. We should no longer say we are in a revolutionary situation.

No, now is the time for security; now is the time for serving the people and society; now is the time for serving Islam; now is the time for people to feel confident and feel secure in every respect. They should utilize their wealth and feel confident concerning their wealth. The shopkeeper should feel confident in his profession. The government employee should feel confident in his department. No one should be afraid of coming back to his country. They should come and see that there is no problem here. They should engage in work in full confidence and should not be frightened that one day their assets will be taken from them. No, we do not believe in confiscating people's wealth. People's wealth belongs to them. They should make use of their wealth and engage in trade; they should administer and strengthen the country and the government will and should support them.

May God protect you all.

MUSAVI REPORTS 22 DEC CABINET DISCUSSIONS

LD221454 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] The Cabinet met this morning under the chairmanship of President Khamene'i. During the session various issues of the nation and the situation on the battlefronts were discussed. The meeting also discussed the recent edict of the imam of the Islamic nation and the need to follow it. At the end of the cabinet session, Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi gave the following interview to our reporter:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Musavi, could you please tell us what issues were discussed during today's Cabinet session?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. During the session, a report on the barbarous missile attack launched by the Saddam regime and its causes was studied. The Cabinet concluded that the resurgence of Muslim revolutionary movements within Iraq has forced the Saddam regime to keep feeding its people with so-called news of victories. The regime has become insane and does not know which path to take to solve its problems. This is the reason it embarked on that criminal deed. It was decided that I should appoint a representative and the government approved the allocation of 40 million tumans for the speedy reconstruction of the destroyed areas.

The session extolled the heroic resistance put up by the citizens of Dezful who are, indeed, the personification of resistance throughout our revolution by standing up to bombings, missile and artillery attacks, and thereby becoming a symbol of heroic resistance. Undoubtedly our Islamic revolution is indebted to the heroic resistance put up by these dear people.

Well, this was one issue that was discussed. Apart from this we discussed certain decrees and bills and a report was given on the progress on the country's development work. It was decided that the Cabinet should discuss the plans put forward once every 3 months. In the meantime, the statement by the imam of the Islamic nation was also extensively discussed and it was decided that that discussion should continue.

[Question] How satisfactory is the progress on the country development plans?

[Answer] Compared to progress achieved last year it has been extremely good and the ability of the various government bodies to attract funds is extremely high, particularly in development work and in fixed capital investments. Of course, there are shortcomings. We think that reforming the public accountancy law, the draft of which has just been sent ot the Majlis, and medium- and long-term planning which is being worked out, will contribute to making our movement better next year than it is this year, God willing. All in all, we believe that the social security which could be brought about following stringent implementation of the imam's statement could be very helpful in achieving the success of these plans.

[Question] In order to follow-up the imam's edict, a staff headquarters has been set up. Could you please tell us what steps have been taken so far by this staff headquarters?

[Answer] Of course the staff headquarters normally reports the work it intends to carry out -- some of this work. Other work is discussed [as heard] and when results are obtained we publish that. Here I would like to refer to a certain section which is extremely important, and the Cabinet discussed this in connection with departmental appointments. Naturally, appointments bodies have, in general, been created for a good reason: to prevent certain individuals from infiltrating government departments, to clean up the situation in government departments and such things. Generally speaking, however, it has been noticed that these appointments bodies have exceeded their own tasks. This is something which runs counter to the statement by the imam of the Islamic nation.

Unfortunately, we have instances where these appointments bodies have resorted to illegal activities; spying in its true sense and disgracing the good name of individuals. We sometimes notice that these things go on in certain appointments bodies. Naturally, all this will be investigated. Here I declare that the appointments bodies have a role to play only when it comes to persons who are about to join government departments and then only in accordance with the limits set by law, within the limits set by the statement of the imam of the Islamic nation. As for existing government employees, these bodies have no right to interfere. In the case of employees who have been dismissed by the appointments bodies, these dismissals are illegal and these employees should be reinstated. Employees can only be dismissed or punished by the manpower purging section. For this reason if anything like this has been done by the appoinments bodies, this would be illegal and appointments personnel should beware not to interfere in matters which do not concern them. For most certainly, an end will be put to this most stringently.

Of course, this applies only to certain appointments bodies. Other appointments bodies in government departments have acted in an extremely revolutionary and admirable manner and they have been useful and have been able to assist us in obtaining healthy, dedicated government departments and so that healthy individuals can find their way into government departments. However, as I have already mentioned, certain appointments bodies, certain members of these bodies, have embarked on extremist acts and these acts should be stopped.

[Quesiton] What steps will be taken to supervise the activities of appointments bodies in this respect?

[Answer] The groups responsible for the reorganization of human resources should also rectify their own affairs. If we regard the imam's edict as a general rule according to which the laws concerning reorganization should be implemented, the primary and appeal commissions and the supreme supervisory commissions should review their methods of dealing with employees. Naturally, as was mentioned in a pamphlet, if we know of an offense and if, God forbid, there is unnecessary harshness, divulgence, searches or defamation of individuals by any of these reorganization bodies, those bodies will be immediately dissolved. If an unlawful act has been committed, the offenders will be sent to the courts. However, I think if we look at all these reorganization bodies, some of them are working very well. They work in an orderly manner and in accordance with the law. Their work will be recompensed and is meritorious in the sight of God, and the nation will also show its gratitude. Some of these reorganization bodies, however, exceed their duties. Naturally, they should reform their methods as soon as possible. [end recording]

IRNA ON PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS ON DEZFUL BOMBING

GF211816 Tehran IRNA in English 1724 GMT 21 Dec 82

[Text] Tehran, Dec 21, IRNA -- President Khamene'i said here today that by its continuous air and rocket attacks against civilians quarters in Iran, Baghdad has disproved its alleged concern for a peaceful settlement of the Iraq-Iran conflict. He said he was hopeful that in a foreseeable future Iran's defence capabilities would grow sufficiently enough to baffle any similar attacks by Iraq from within the Iraqi territory.

Khamene'i who was talking to IRNA immediately after a meeting with Imam Khomeyni here today observed that it would be an utterly erroneous assumption by Baghdad to fancy that by undulging in such operations it would intimidate Iran or dissuade it from insisting on its legitimate demands. Said the president, this (the rocket attack against Dezful on December 19) is a barefaced outcry for war, one serving to fuel the fire of the war and a crime which is even unwanted in the battlefields. Such operations perpetrated by our enemies, only provide us with additional incentive to go on with the war.

Khamene'i noted also that the imam had been very much aggrieved by the news of the rocket attack against Dezful.

JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 1,160 ON 21 DEC FIGHTING

LD221732 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Communique No 1,160 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Yesterday, the combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran stationed in the Marivan region opened artillery fire on positions of the Saddamists in the (Bani-Banuk) sector, killing a number of the Iraqi military personnel. Several weapons emplacements and several trenches and foxholes of the Saddamists were set ablaze. Sporadic exchanges of fire continued in the Paveh region. Intense fire exchanges also continued between our forces and the aggressive enemy in the Mehran region.

Thanks to heavy artillery fire directed by the combatants of Islam along the border fronts of the Bakhtaran region at the artillery, armored and infantry positions of the Iraqi forces, the latter's movements and activities were halted. Approximately 30 enemy troops were killed or wounded.

During the past 24 hours, the defenders of the battlefronts in the Moharram operational sectors and on the southern fronts of the country, with vigilance and power, gave the enemy no chance to move and inflicted effective blows on them. Our forces in the Abadan region prevented troop and supply movements by the aggressors on the far side of the Arvand Rud. Our forces also disrupted enemy engineering units activity and killed or wounded about 10 Iraqi troops.

The aggressive armed forces of Saddam, in continuation of their barbaric deeds, shelled several residential districts of Abadan yesterday and inflicted some losses. During the past 24 hours, the air defense units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran repulsed enemy air raids on the border regions in the south and west of the country and forced the intruding aircraft to flee.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

GDR CHEMICAL INDUSTRY MINISTER HOLDS TALKS

Confers With Musavi

LD221828 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] The visiting East German chemical industry minister accompanied by the GDR ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran met and conferred this afternoon with Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi. The meeting was also attended by Industry Minister Hashemi; the Industry Ministry international relations director general; the Foreign Ministry economic affairs director general; and our country's charge d'affaires to the GDR.

During the meeting, the GDR chemical industry minister presented Musavi with a message from the GDR premier. He told our prime minister: Our government is following with deep interest your anti-imperialist and political stands, and attaches great value to your nation's and government's resistance. Our country, like Iran, is affected by imperialism's economic sanctions; it is also faced with imperialism's and America's MX missiles, stationed in Western Europe.

In reply, Musavi referred to the U.S. military presence in Western Europe through its stationing of missiles equipped with nuclear warheads. He said: We are very sensitive to the presence of U.S. fleets in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf and to the vast conspiracies carried out against the Islamic revolution with the assistance of dependent states linked to imperialism. However, despite those conspiracies our nation emerges daily more powerful, and by enjoying greater confidence, continues with its struggle. The Islamic revolution, because of its deep-rooted common cultural principles, enjoys a strong voice among all nations of the region, and this is in fact the secret of our success. The reason behind the enmity shown against our revolution and nation by regimes such as Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and other reactionary countries of the region -- whose dependence on the United States is beyond any doubt -- is this popularity.

The prime minister also mentioned America's plots against the Islamic revolution, such as the direct military intervention in Iran, such as in Tabas. He also said: What surprises us is the Soviet Union's claim of its anti-imperialist struggle at a time when Iraq is being supplied with arms, through the countries of the region linked to America, for the war against Iran. Despite the Iraqi regime's links to those countries, the Soviet Union continues to supply Iraq with arms. According to our military experts, the missiles which recently levelled the city of Dezful, were Russian-made. However, our nation's preparedness is such that it will overcome all these problems.

Meets Transportation Minister

LD222250 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] The GDR chemical industry minister, who has come to Iran with a technical delegation to establish economic relations with our country, met and conferred with the roads and transport minister, Hadinezhad-Hoseyniyan, this afternoon. During this meeting, they exchanged views on road construction, transportation, railways and port facilities. It was agreed to arrange a meeting between the authorities of the two countries in the future in order to expand cooperation in these areas.

Signs Cooperation Protocol

LD230212 Tehran IRNA in English 1957 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Tehran, Dec. 22, IRNA -- A protocol for technical and economic cooperation was signed today between the Islamic Republic and the German Democratic Republic. In this contract, signed by Iranian minister of industries and GDR chemical industries minister, Gunther Wyschefsky, the two sides announced their readiness for the increase of the volume of bilateral trade between the two countries in electronic field including the manufacturing of radio transmitters and the related technological equipment. The protocol also calls for joint construction of factories, production of communication cables, machinery, cooperation in the cement industry and the providing by the GDR chemical raw materials needed by Iran as well as exchange of experts between the two countries in electronic field including the manufacturing of radio transmitters and the related technological equipment. The protocol also calls for joint construction of factories, production of communication cables, machinery, cooperation in the cement industry and the providing by the GDR chemical raw materials needed by Iran as well as exchange of experts between the two countries. Also, a joint account involving the two countries will be opened as mentioned in the protocol and the two sides will take out or deposit money in it for their sales and purchases. In this way, the volume of exchanges would become almost equal. According to the contract, the GDR will purchase about 75 million dollars of an-oil [as received] products.

REBELS CLEARED FROM NINE WESTERN VILLAGES

LD222054 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] The Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada headquarters has issued a statement that in the course of mopping up operations in the country's western sectors from the existence of agents of the world oppressors and armed insurgents, nine more villages in Kordestan, under Takab jurisdiction, were cleared. These operations were carried out by the mighty and powerful combatants of Islam. During these operations 11 counterrevolutionaries were killed and a number of them were injured.